

Registration Authority at (804) 367-6135 or by email: boat-reg@dgif.state.va.us

- Notify Harbor Master
- Notify your insurance carrier.

Contact other marinas, campgrounds, boat dealers.

TIPS ON BUYING A BOAT

- Compare the registration and title to the boat and motor; make sure the HIN and/or serial numbers match. Never buy a boat or motor if the serial number has been altered or defaced!
- Make sure the motor and other equipment has a serial number.
- If the price is low compared to the value - be aware.
- Do not buy if the seller can not provide the proper ownership documents (i.e., registration card, and title) and a bill of sale. The Virginia Boat Registration Authority can assist you with questions concerning proper ownership documents.

BE FAMILIAR WITH WHAT THIEVES WANT

Thieves are looking for something that is easy to steal. Most stolen boats are under 20'. This is due to they are easier to transport and store. Many of these boats are similar in size/appearance, which makes them harder to identify.

FAVORITE TIMES FOR THIEVES

- When owners are not around
- Before daybreak and sunset.

- During the off season.
- During bad - rainy weather.

TO REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

PHONE

1-800-237-5712

Or email: wildcrime@dgif.state.va.us, for all other suspicious activities contacts your local Police or Sheriff's Department.



VIRGINIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

The Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to: VA. Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, ATTN.: Compliance Officer, 4010 West Broad St. Richmond, VA 23230-1104

For more information or for information on forming a Wildlife Crime Watch contact your local Game Warden. Visit our Web Site at:

<http://www.dgif.state.va.us>

01/26/01

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA SPORTSMAN'S REWARD FUND, INC. BY SENDING YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO: VIRGINIA CRIME LINE, 4010 WEST BROAD STREET, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230-1104.

WILDLIFE CRIME WATCH

TIPS TO PREVENT BOAT THEFT



A PARTNERSHIP FOR WILDLIFE, THE ENVIRONMENT, PROPERTY AND PEOPLE

KNOW YOUR HIN

HIN stands for Hull Identification Number and is equivalent to VIN or Vehicle Identification Number on motor vehicles. By Federal regulations all boats built after 1972 were required to have a HIN installed on the boat transom. This HIN is to be on the starboard (right) outboard side of the transom within two inches of the top of the transom. If the vessel does not have a transom (such as a personal watercraft PWC) the HIN must be located to the starboard outboard side of the hull, aft (rear), within one foot of the stern and within two inches of the top of the hull side, gunwale or hull/deck joint.

Owners of vessels manufactured prior to 1972 without a HIN may contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Boat Registration Authority to obtain more information about an assigned HIN. Telephone **804-367-6135** or email: boat-reg@dgif.state.va.us.

If your HIN is missing or has been altered, contact your local State Game Warden at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Law Enforcement Division at 804-367-1000.

KNOW YOUR VESSEL

- Know your hull identification number (HIN).
- Know your registration number. Do not leave your registration card on board when the vessel is not being used.
- The registration is required to be onboard while the vessel is being operated.
- Photograph or videotape your vessel, include the HIN and registration number - preferably in color.

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE ON BOARD

- Make a list of what you have onboard.
- Engrave additional hidden HIN's or other identifiers on the boat, motor and other equipment.
- Make sure your insurance covers the equipment.
- Mark flotation devices, covers, sails, oars with a waterproof marker.

LOCK THIEVES OUT

- Install dead bolt locks or strong padlocks with hasps to secure doors and hatches.
- Add small locks and fasteners to windows.
- Secure outboard motors through the transom with bolts and clamping locks. Commercial transom locks are available.

STORE YOUR BOAT IN A SAFE PLACE

- Lock the boat to the trailer with chains/cables.
- Lock the trailer tongue or lock the trailer to a tree or other secure object.
- Keep the boat, motor and trailer out of sight in a fenced area or locked building.
- Park a vehicle between the trailer and the wall.
- Use a trailer hitch lock at all times.
- Do not make your boat an easy target.

AT MARINAS

- Back your boat into your slip and remove the key from the ignition.
- Insist on good lighting.
- Secure your boat in the slip with a chain and lock.
- Know who your neighbors are.
- Visit the boat at random times.
- Inform the dock master who can be on board.
- Inform the dock master if the boat will be gone for a trip or for repairs.

OTHER TIPS

When the vessel is left in the water but not at a marina and/or when stored

- Remove the propeller(s).
- Remove spark plugs to disable engine(s).
- Install a kill switch in a hidden place.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF THEFT

- Notify the nearest police agency. Provide accurate descriptions for the boat registration number, HIN, color, length, model numbers, serial number, motor horsepower, year, make and any special equipment. Describe any distinguishing marks or alteration done.
- Notify the Boat Registration Authority. Virginia Administrative Code (4VAC 15-380-50) requires boat owners to notify the Virginia Boat Registration Authority of the theft of a vessel within 15 days. Owners can contact Virginia Boat